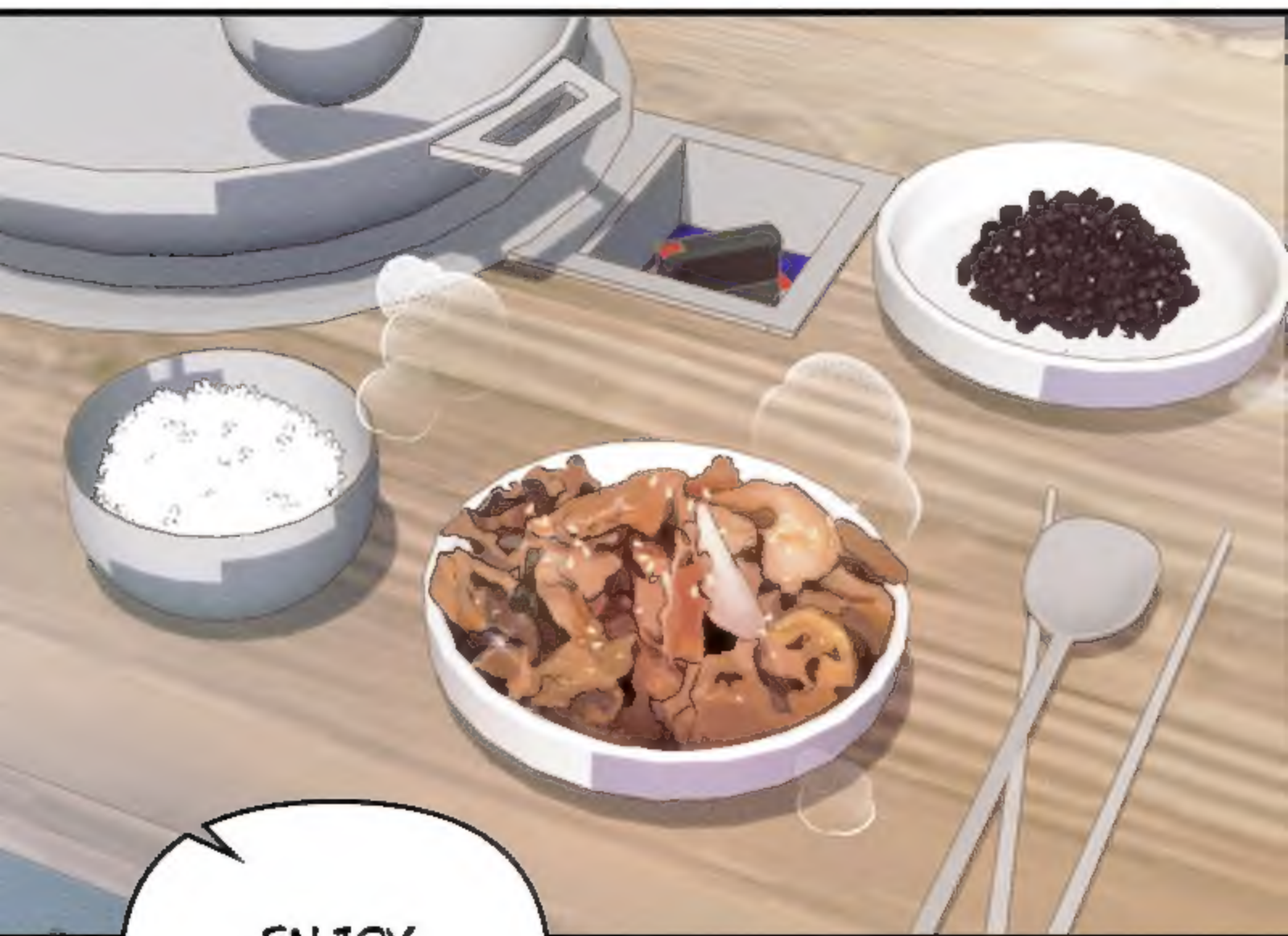


The New Hire is the Demon Lord.

Story HAUNI Art Soobni

003



ENJOY
YOUR MEAL!



ENJOY!

ERR...
HOPE YOU ENJOY
THE MEAL!

THIS IS OUR
USUAL LUNCH
SPOT.

RAISE





STARE

CHOPSTICKS,
HMM?



IT WOULD BE

STRANGE IF I USED
TELEKINESIS TO
EAT, RIGHT?

I HAVEN'T
USED TOOLS IN A
LONG TIME...





PEW



OH RIGHT,
YOU SAID YOU
LIVED ABROAD FOR A
LONG TIME... SHOULD
I ASK FOR A
FORK?



CLINK



DO NOT
UNDERESTIMATE ME.
I WILL GET USED
TO THIS IN MERE
MOMENTS.

OKAY.

BY THE WAY,
LAHAN... I THINK
IT'D BE GOOD IF YOU
WERE A LITTLE MORE

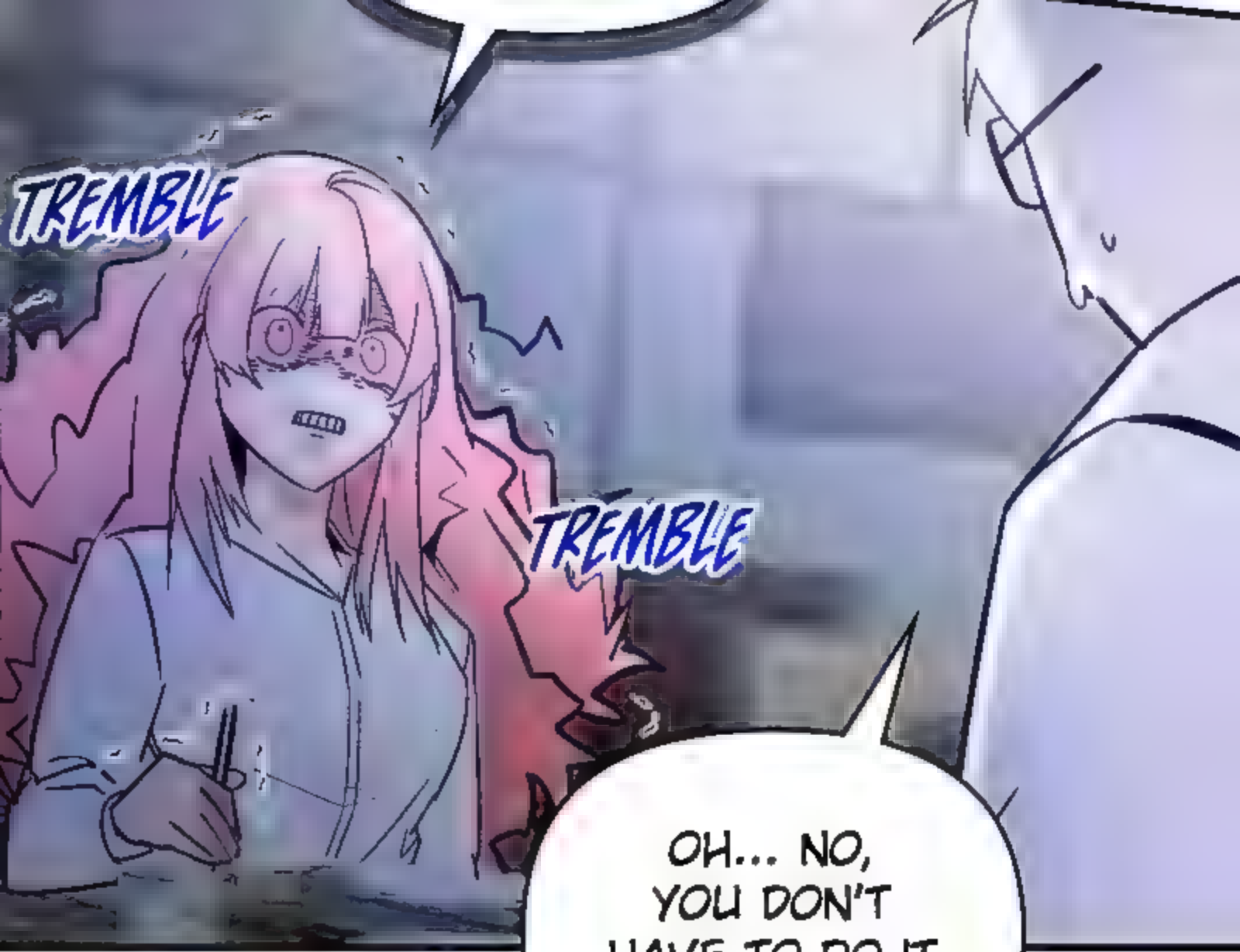
POLITE AT WORK.

IT WOULDN'T
HURT TO ADD A
"PLEASE" OR "THANK
YOU," ESPECIALLY WHEN
YOU'RE SPEAKING TO
SOMEONE ABOVE YOU
IN THE COMPANY.

PEW

SWOOP

AND AM I
EXPECTED TO DO
THIS FOR YOU,
TOO?!



TREMBLE

TREMBLE

OH... NO,
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO DO IT
FOR ME.

SHE'S
CLEARLY
DISGUSTED BY
THE IDEA.



THAT WAS
GREAT!

BURP

MESSY

DID THEY
NOT LIKE THE
FOOD?





SO,
HOW'D YOU LIKE
THE FOOD?

WAS
GOOD.

BULGOGI*,
WAS IT? I'LL
REMEMBER
THAT...

*BULGOGI IS A KOREAN
DISH MADE OF THINLY
SLICED MARINATED BEEF
THAT'S GRILLED OR STIR-FRIED.

HOW IS HE
SO NONCHALANT
ABOUT THIS DELICIOUS
FOOD?

GLANCE

IS HE NOT ABLE
TO FIND ANY JOY IN
EVERYDAY THINGS

ANYMORE?

YONGRAE,
HERE'S THE COMPANY
CARD, SO GO AHEAD AND
PAY ONCE EVERYONE'S
DONE.







DO WHAT?

WHY DO
YOU ALWAYS COWER
BEFORE OTHERS?

HAVE YOU
DONE SOMETHING
WRONG TO EARN
THEIR IRE?



THAT'S
NOT EXACTLY THE
CASE, BUT I DID MAKE A
MISTAKE THIS MORNING.

AND I ALSO THINK
IT'S A HABIT.

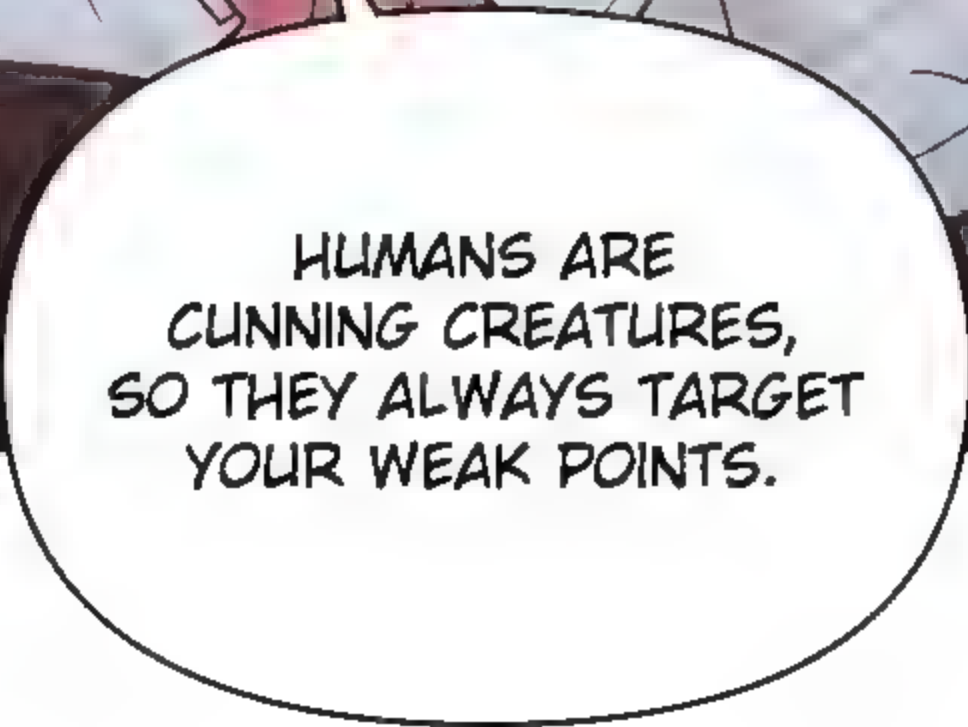
HANA

I GET
LECTURED BY HIM
MOST OFTEN, SO THAT'S
PROBABLY WHY.

DO NOT
LET ANYONE TEAR
YOU DOWN.

BE MORE
CONFIDENT IN YOURSELF.
ANYTHING YOU LACK CAN
BE MADE UP FOR
WITH EFFORT.





HUMANS ARE
CUNNING CREATURES,
SO THEY ALWAYS TARGET
YOUR WEAK POINTS.



...

RIGHT...

SWISH



DON'T JUST
SIT THERE, DEAR.
HELP ME CLEAN UP.

I WON'T
LET ANYONE
TEAR ME--

CLANG

TOSS



WHAT'S
HER DEAL?

I'M LEAVING,
YONGRAE.

WHAT IS
THIS? A "COFFEE
MACHINE?"

LEAN





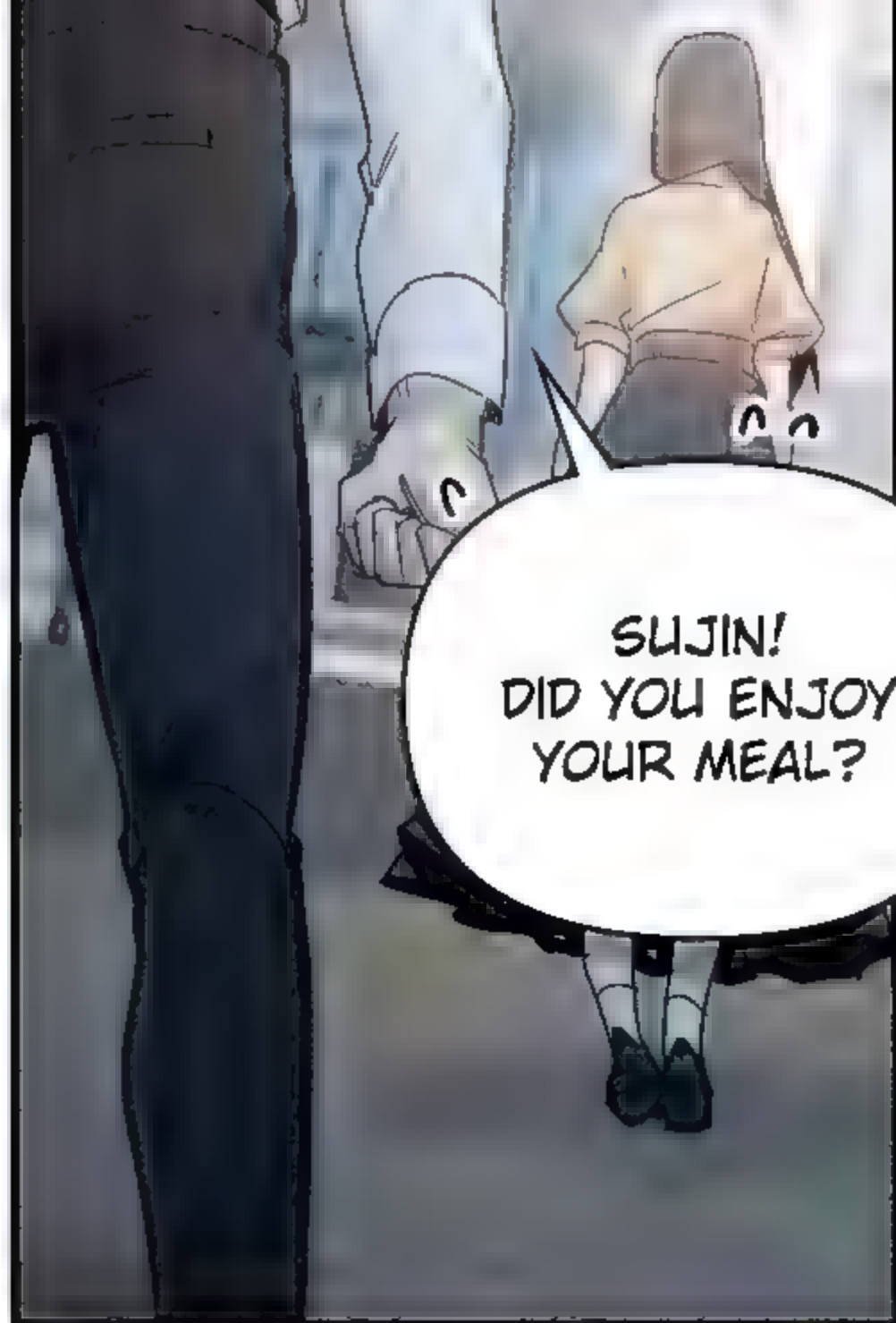
OH, SOJIN!

OOH

IF YOU PRESS
THAT BUTTON,
IT MAKES YOU
COFFEE.

IT'S FREE,
SO GO AHEAD AND
HAVE SOME IF
YOU WANT!

RUSH



WHAT'S WITH
THAT WOMAN?
WHY IS SHE TOUCHING
A MAN SHE JUST
MET?



TURN

HAHA...
I'M NOT SURE.
MAYBE PEOPLE ARE
A BIT MORE TOUCHY
WHERE SHE'S
FROM?



WHY ARE YOU
LAUGHING?

YOU DIDN'T
STOP HER. YOU
ENJOYED IT,
DIDN'T YOU?

YOU'RE MAKING
ASSUMPTIONS
AGAIN...

AGAIN? ARE
YOU SAYING THAT
I ALWAYS JUMP TO
CONCLUSIONS?

NO! THAT'S
NOT WHAT I--

TURN

WHAT'S SHE
DOING?



H-HEWP ME, HEWO...
GUEP ME, HEWO...

(HELP ME, HERO...)

OW, HOT!

BEEP



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?! THAT'S
ENOUGH COFFEES!
STOP!

IT'S HOT...







YOU TOLD ME
IT WAS FREE, SO
I THOUGHT I'D
GET MORE!

YOU SHOULD
TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF THINGS THAT ARE
FREE, RIGHT?

SQUEAK



THEY SAY A
TIGER DOES ITS
BEST EVEN WHEN
IT IS ONLY HUNTING
A RABBIT, YOU
KNOW.



THANK YOU
FOR THE FOUR
RABBITS...

HOW COULD I
HAVE KNOWN THAT
THIS COFFEE IS FREE
WHenever WE
GO THERE?

SQUEAK

I THOUGHT
IT WAS A LIMITED

DEAL FOR TODAY,
SO I HAD TO MAKE
USE OF IT.

IN ANY CASE,
A MACHINE THAT
CREATES COFFEE WITH
THE PRESS OF A BUTTON?
IT'S ALMOST LIKE
MAGIC.





SQUEAK

IT'S SWEET
AND HAS A GOOD
FLAVOR. IT IS TO
MY LIKING.

I GUESS
PEOPLE WHO
STAYED ABROAD
DON'T ALL LEAD
EXTRAVAGANT
LIVES...

I CAN BUY
YOU COFFEE IF YOU
REALLY WANT IT.

THERE
ARE BETTER
COFFEES OUT
THERE.

SQUEAK

PITY



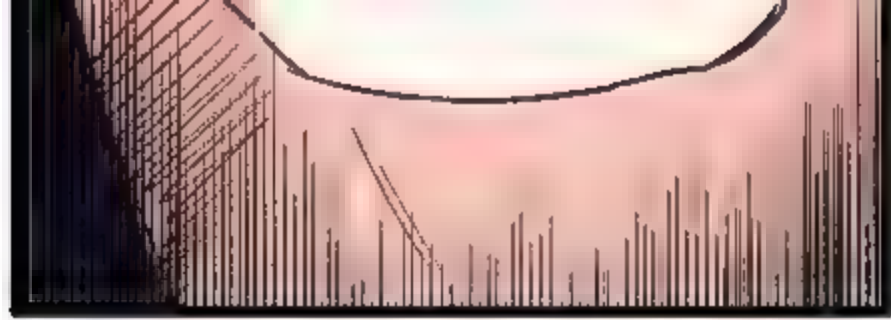
SQUEAK

REALLY?!
THERE ARE BETTER
ONES?!

SQUEAK

SQUEAK



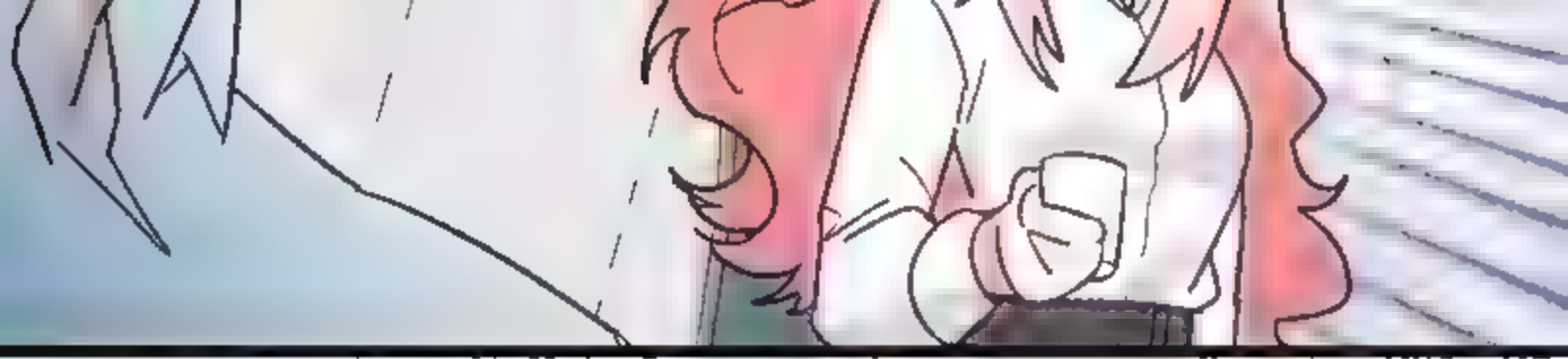


HEY!!!



JOLT





WHO KEEPS
MAKING THEIR
CHAIR SQUEAK?

DO YOU
OWN THE PLACE
OR SOMETHING?
WHO WAS IT?
GET UP!

SPRING

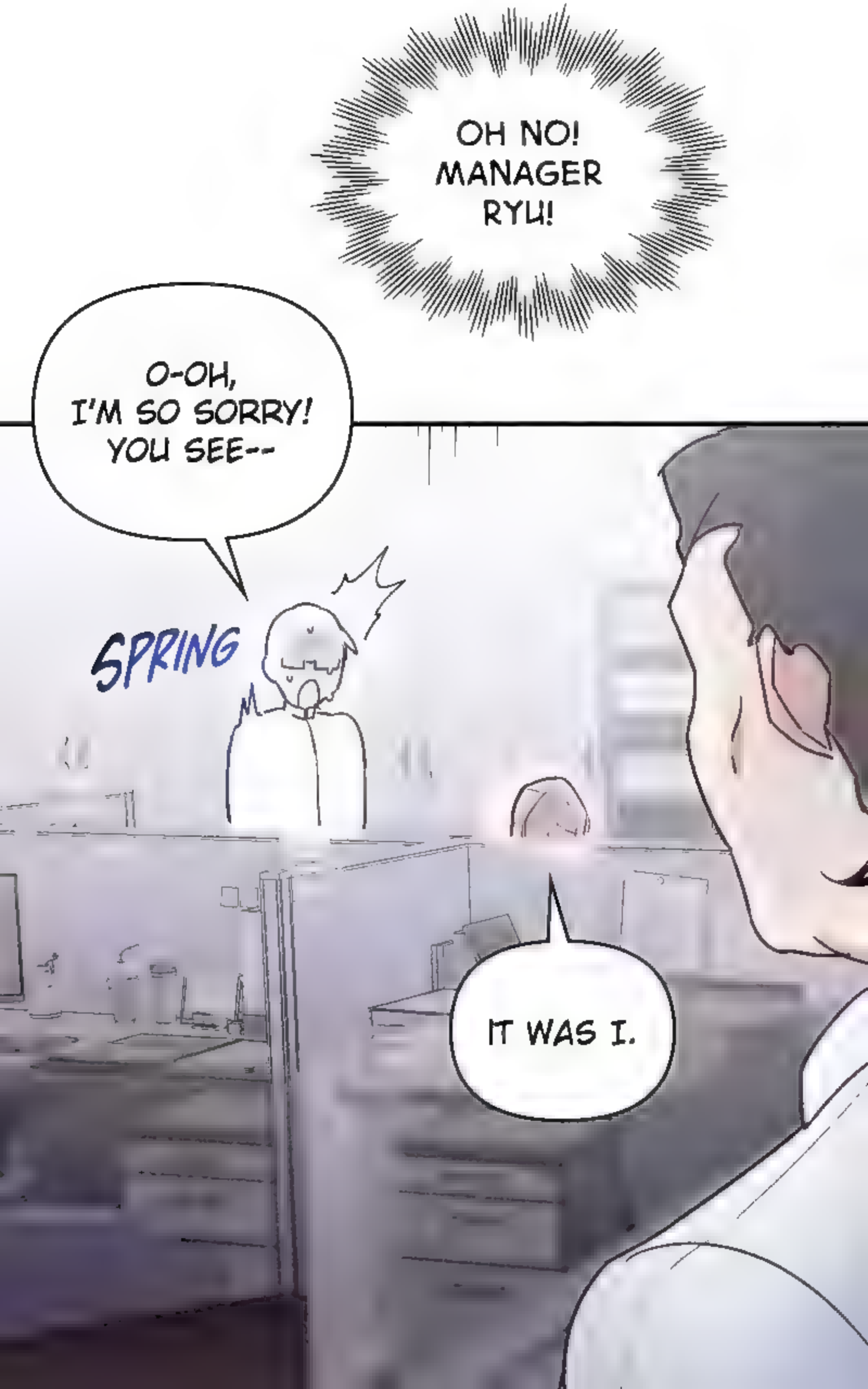




**TAEKGEUN RYU,
MANAGER (40)**

5'11" / 200 LBS

**USED TO WORK AT A PROMINENT,
LARGE COMPANY. RATHER
TEMPERAMENTAL.**



OH NO!
MANAGER
RYU!

O-OH,
I'M SO SORRY!
YOU SEE--

SPRING

IT WAS I.

OH RIGHT,
I SHOULD BE
MORE FORMAL.





RISE

IT WAS I,
PLEASE AND
THANK YOU.

DU DUN





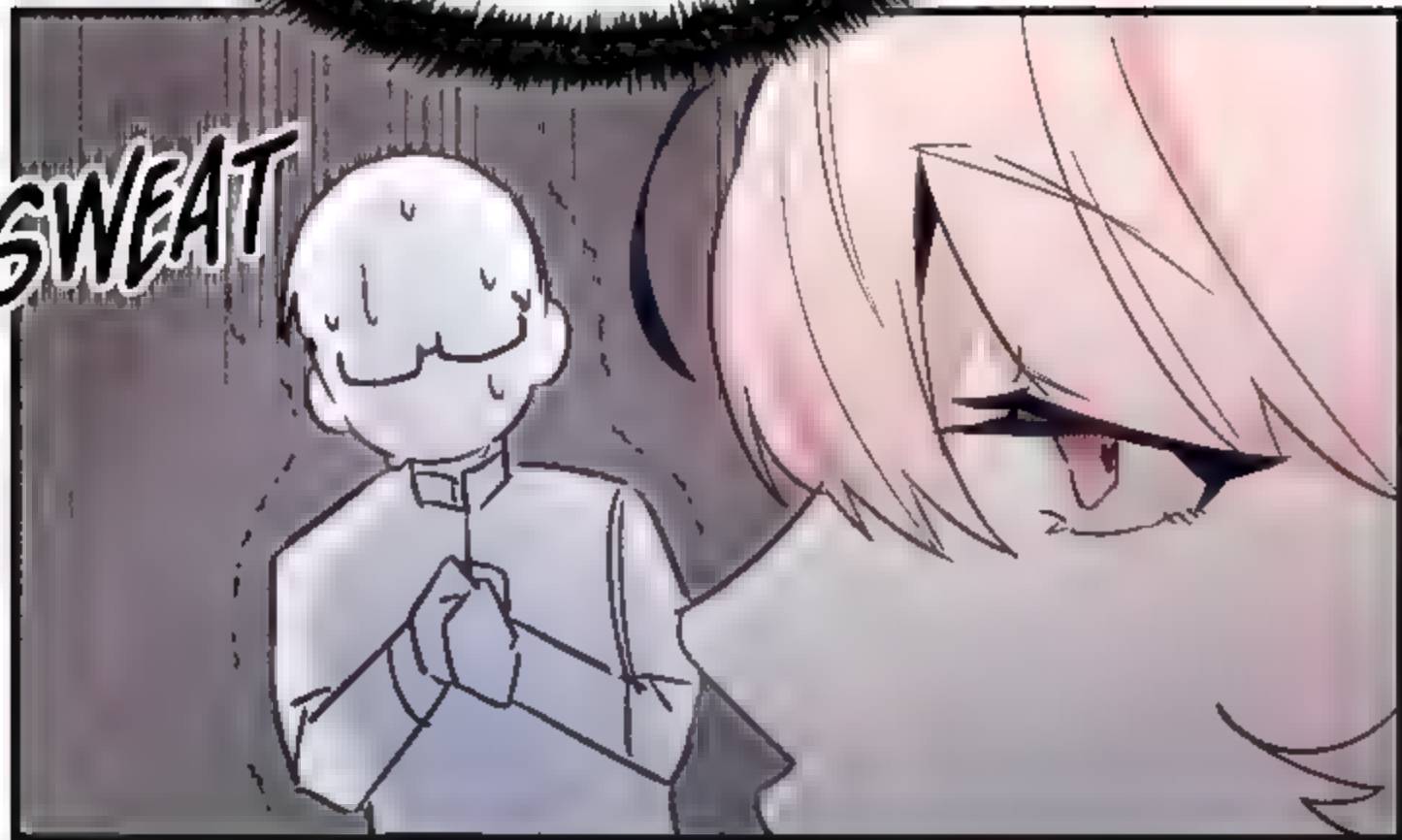
WHEN MANAGER RYU
THOUGHT BACK TO THIS
MOMENT HE SAID THAT

MOMENT, HE SAID THAT
HE THOUGHT HE WAS
DREAMING.



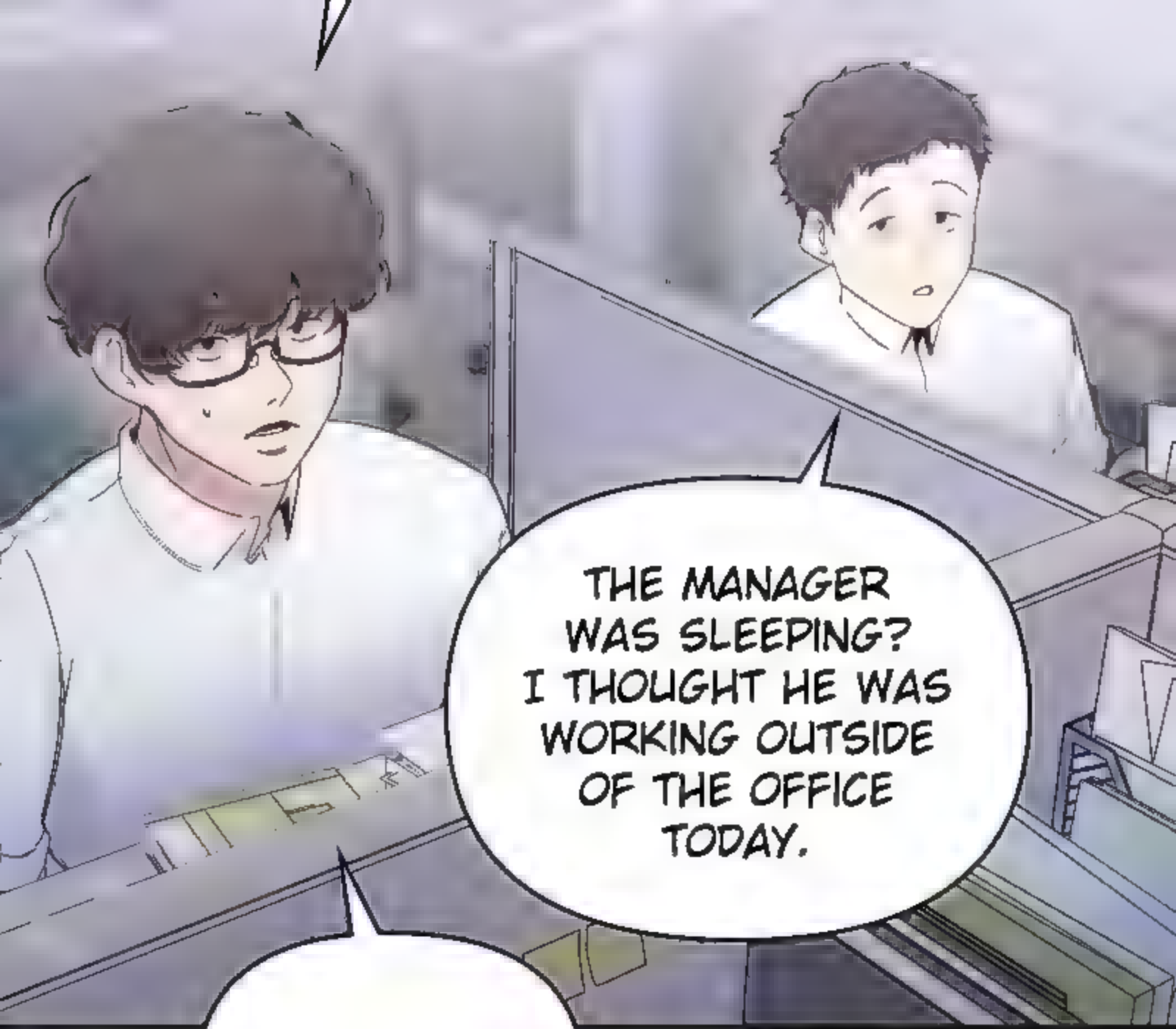
OH GOD, NO!
PLEASE DON'T MAKE
MY LIFE ANY HARDER
THAN IT IS!

SWEAT



YONGRAE
WAS PRAYING
DESPERATELY.

OH MAN... SHE
WENT AND POKED THE
SLEEPING BEAR.



THE MANAGER
WAS SLEEPING?
I THOUGHT HE WAS
WORKING OUTSIDE
OF THE OFFICE
TODAY.

YOU'RE ALSO
A PROBLEM.

WAIT, I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU BEFORE.
WHO ARE YOU?



I AM LAHAN JU,
THE NEW HIRE,
THANK YOU.

NICE
TO MEET YOU,
PLEASE.





MANAGER RYU
BEGAN TO DOUBT HIS
IDEA OF COMMON
DECENCY.

WHAT'S
GOING ON?
AM I ON
CANDID
CAMERA?

SWOOP

MANAGER RYU,
SIR!

SHE JUST
STARTED TODAY, AND
HER KOREAN IS A LITTLE
AWKWARD BECAUSE
SHE LIVED ABROAD
FOR SO LONG!

STOP MAKING
DISTRACTING NOISES
WHEN PEOPLE ARE



WORKING.

THE NEW HIRE?
HMPH...

WHAT HAVE
WE HERE? THE
EYES OF A WARRIOR...
IT HAS CERTAINLY
BEEN A WHILE.





SMIRK

ALL RIGHT,
I SHALL KEEP
THAT IN MIND.

HOWEVER,
IT IS NOT RIGHT FOR
A SUPERIOR TO YELL AT
HIS SUBORDINATES
IN SUCH A WAY.

LOYALTY
EARNED THROUGH FEAR
TENDS TO CRUMBLE
EASILY.

PLEASE AND
THANK YOU!

SHE'S
SPEAKING LIKE
THAT ON PURPOSE,
ISN'T SHE?



WHO'S
IN CHARGE

OF HER?!



YONGRAE KIM,
HUH?

TEACH HER
BETTER OTHERWISE

BETTER. OTHERWISE,
I'LL MAKE SURE TO
FIRE BOTH OF YOU
MYSELF.





WHO ON
EARTH HIRED
HER?

THE BOSS



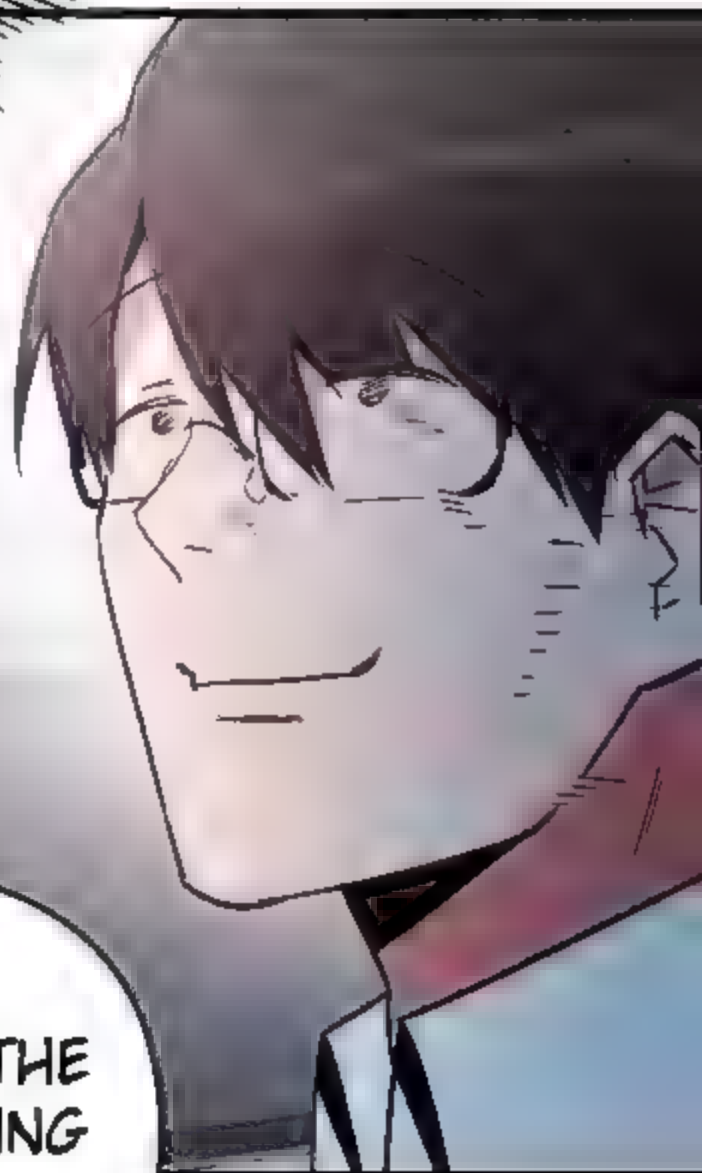
HIMSELF...

DID YOU
SEE THAT?
THAT IS CALLED
CONFIDENCE.

HMM? WHY
DO YOU LOOK
SO PALE?

I SHOULD
START LOOKING
FOR A NEW JOB,
RIGHT?

MISS LAHAN? THE
BOSS IS LOOKING
FOR YOU.





NOW, LET US
FINALIZE YOUR
CONTRACT!



SINCE YOU
STUDIED ABROAD,
I RAISED THE STARTING

ANNUAL SALARY BY TWO
MILLION WON*!

YOU WON'T
FIND A BETTER
OFFER ANYWHERE ELSE,
EVEN WITH YOUR
RESUME.

*ABOUT 2,000 USD.

RUSTLE



BY THE WAY,
ERR... YOU DO KNOW
THAT I'M THE BOSS, RIGHT?
JUST MAKING

SURE...

*ABOUT 28,000 USD.

WHAT IS THIS
"BLANKET WAGE
SYSTEM," ALONG WITH
AN ANNUAL SALARY OF
28 MILLION*?





OH, SINCE IT'S
HARD TO DETERMINE
EXACTLY HOW MANY
HOURS YOU'LL BE
WORKING,

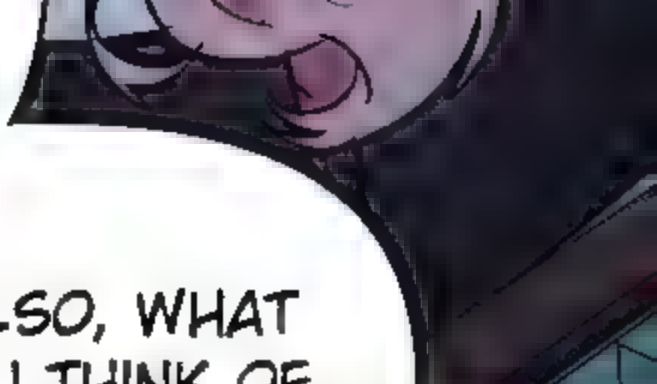
WE'RE ADDING
ANY OVERTIME PAY
TO YOUR SALARY FROM
THE START. THAT'S WITHOUT
YOU HAVING EVEN DONE
ANY OVERTIME YET!

HMM...
I SUPPOSE
I'LL DO IT.

A man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a light blue shirt, is leaning over a desk. He is pointing his right index finger towards a woman with long, wavy pink hair. The woman is seen from the back, looking towards the man. The background is a blurred cityscape with tall buildings. There are two speech bubbles: one from the man at the top and one from the woman at the bottom.

GREAT! I LOOK
FORWARD TO HAVING
YOU ON BOARD. JUST
SIGN THERE.

I LOVE HOW
TO-THE-POINT YOU
ARE! MUST BE A



THING FROM LIVING
ABROAD.

OH, ALSO, WHAT
DO YOU THINK OF
YONGRAE?

I AM
NOT SURE YET.
WHAT DO YOU THINK
OF HIM?

SHE ACTS
LIKE SHE'S THE
BOSS...

HMPH



A woman with long pink hair and a blue top is looking towards a man on the right. The man has dark hair and is wearing a dark suit. The background is a blurred city street.



WELL... I SUPPOSE
IT ISN'T JUST YONGRAE.
THERE ARE A LOT OF ISSUES
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE
THESE DAYS.

HMM, I SUPPOSE
EVERY GENERATION
TREATS ITS YOUTHS AS
THOUGH THEY ARE
LACKING.





YOU'RE
THE ISSUE
HERE!

YOUR TASK IS
TO UNDERSTAND
THEM BETTER.

AND THAT WILL
REQUIRE TIME.



06:00:12 PM

Thursday

TICK

GET UP.
IT IS TIME TO
GO HOME.

SPRING







WHO ELSE
WOULD I BE TALKING
TO? WORKING HOURS
ARE OVER, SO WE
MUST LEAVE.

WHAT?!
WAIT-!

FUMBLE

WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR?

GET UP.

RUMMAGE

WHOA, SHE'S
ACTUALLY LEAVING
BEFORE EVERYONE
ELSE ON HER FIRST
DAY? SHE'S GOT
GUTS...

WOW.

LEAN





BUT WHY IS
SHE LEAVING WITH
YONGRAE?

MAYBE HE'S
GOING TO CATCH
HER UP WITH WORK
A BIT MORE?

BUT MORE
IMPORTANTLY...
IS MANAGER RYU
GOING TO BE OKAY
WITH THAT?

A man with dark hair, wearing a white button-down shirt, stands with a stern, slightly angry expression. He is looking down at a small, round character with spiky black hair and a wide-eyed, nervous expression. The small character is flinching, indicated by blue motion lines and the word 'FLINCH' in blue. The background is a blurred cityscape.

YONGRAE.
ARE YOU DONE
WITH YOUR WORK
FOR THE DAY?

FLINCH

PARDON?
OH, YES! I AM,
B-BUT I...

GLARE



ARE YOU SURE

YOU DID EVERYTHING
PERFECTLY?

WHAT WILL
YOU DO IF I FIND
A MISTAKE?

I-I'LL
DOUBLE-CHECK
RIGHT AWAY--





A comic book panel featuring a character with long, wavy pink hair and a dark, hooded garment. The character's face is partially obscured by the hood, with only their eyes and part of their nose visible. They have a serious expression. In the background, another character's hand is visible, reaching towards the main character. The word "RAISE" is partially visible in the top left corner in a stylized, purple font.

UNLESS IT IS
URGENT, IT WOULD
BE WRONG TO KEEP
WORKING OUTSIDE
OF WORKING
HOURS.

IF ANYTHING IS WRONG,
IT WOULD BE CORRECT TO
CHECK TOMORROW AND
REPRIMAND HIM THEN.

HEY, YOU...
MAYBE YOU'RE TOO
YOUNG TO KNOW HOW
DIFFERENT REALITY
CAN BE, BUT...

TURN

...IF WE GO BY THE BOOK,
IT WOULD MEAN THAT IF YONGRAE

FAILS TO COMPLETE HIS WORK
PROPERLY, I CAN FIRE HIM
AT ANY TIME. ARE YOU
AWARE OF THAT?

OF COURSE
I AM.

!!

YOU
CAN'T SAY
THAT!

WHY WOULD YOU
CONTINUE TO PAY A

CONTINUE TO PAY A
WORKER WHO CANNOT
PERFORM HIS
DUTIES?

ALL RIGHT
THEN, GO.

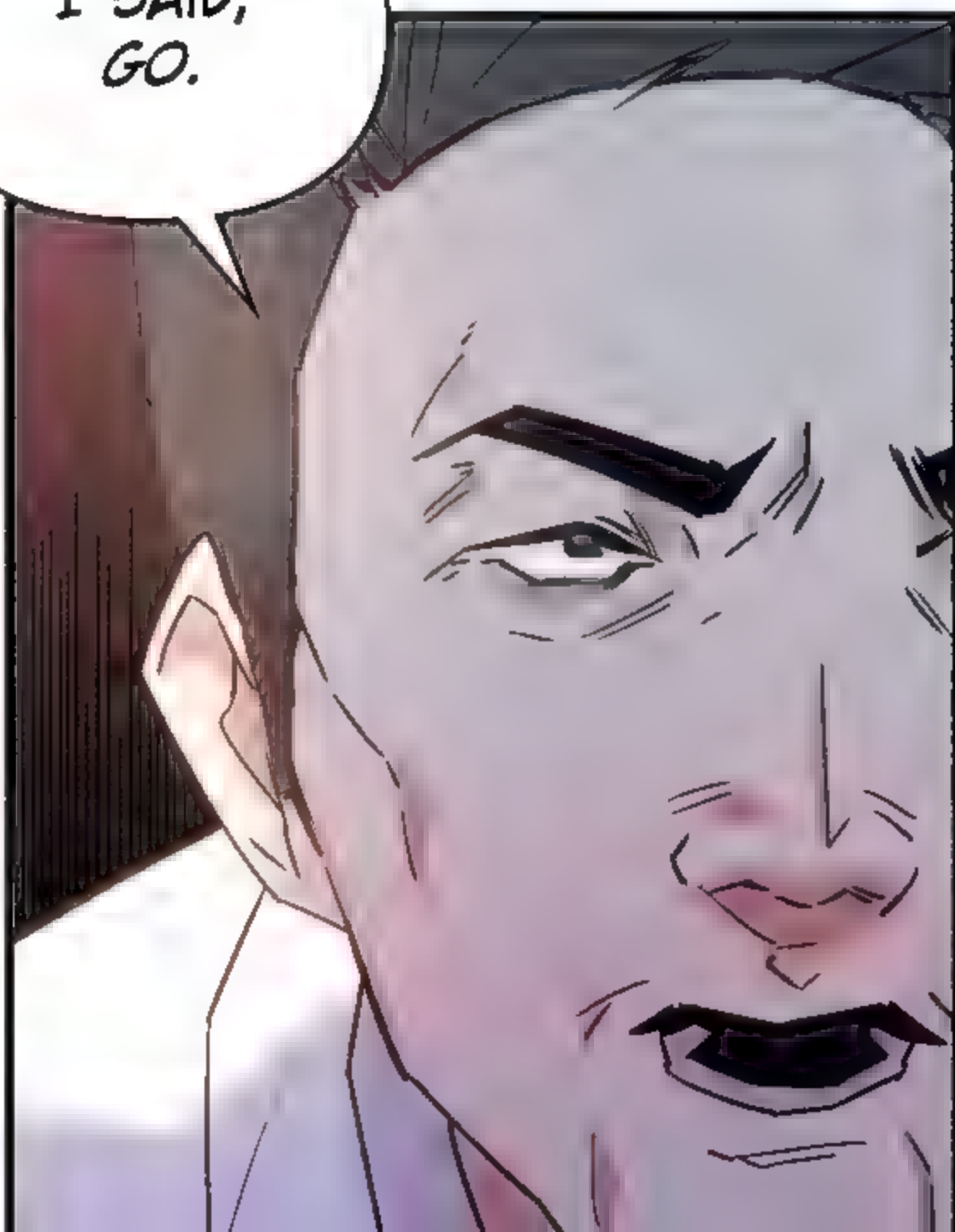
SEE YOU
TOMORROW,
PLEASE AND
THANK YOU!!



THANK YOU.

S-SIR, I'LL
STAY BEHIND
AND KEEP--

I SAID,
GO.





HAA...
THIS IS BAD.

DO YOU
HAVE ANY IDEA
HOW MUCH TROUBLE
I'M IN BECAUSE
OF YOU?

WHY WOULD YOU
BE IN TROUBLE? IF YOU

SIMPLY DO YOUR WORK
PROPERLY, YOU WILL
BE FINE.

I TOLD YOU,
I'M NOT GOOD AT
MY WORK!

SHOUT



STEP

YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT MY LIFE IS LIKE!
IT'S A SERIES OF MISTAKES
AND LECTURES ABOUT
HOW MUCH OF A
FAILURE I AM!

THAT IS NOTHING
TO BOAST ABOUT,
SO QUIET DOWN.

HAA...
ALSO, YOU HAD NO
WAY OF KNOWING, BUT

I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND,
SO YOU CAN'T KEEP
DOING THIS.

SHE WILL
NOT MIND.

TAP

TAP

HOW COULD

SHE NOT MIND?!
SOME WOMAN JUST
PULLED HER BOYFRIEND
AWAY FROM THE
OFFICE.

Where are you?

Sujin 

Out on business with
Assistant Manager Jaewon.

The new hire says she wants
to leave the office with me to ask
me some questions.

Sujin 

Okay! I'm still working,
so I'll talk to you later.

ALSO, I WILL
NEVER DEVELOP ANY
FEELINGS FOR YOU,
SO IT DOES NOT
MATTER.

YOU CANNOT
TURN ME ON.





SHE DIDN'T
HAVE TO SAY IT
LIKE THAT...

HAHA

AND STOP
SMILING LIKE A FOOL
WHENEVER YOU ARE
FLUSTERED!

WHY ARE YOU
MISUSING THAT FACE
OF YOURS?!

WH-WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

CONFUSED



A comic panel featuring a character in a dark suit and a pink tie. The character is partially visible on the right side of the frame. A large speech bubble is positioned in the center-left of the panel. The background is dark and blurry, suggesting an indoor setting with some architectural elements.

THIS IS WHY
EVERYONE TAKES
YOU FOR A FOOL!

!

PEOPLE TAKE
ME FOR A FOOL?

WHO, EXACTLY?

EVERYONE.

GRAB



URK

URK

WH-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

STARE



TRY SMILING
PROPERLY. LIKE
A MAN.

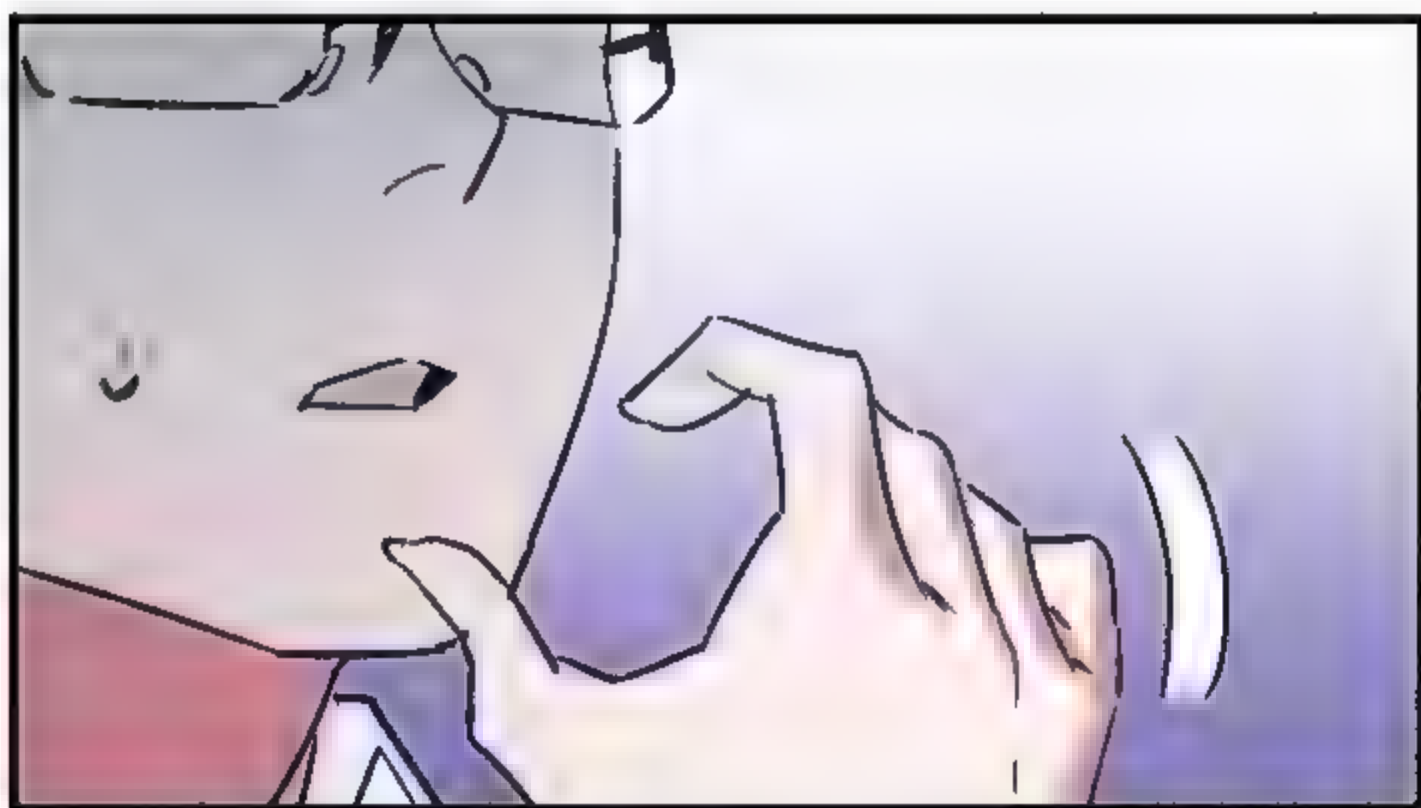




SMILE







NEVER MIND.
STOP THAT,

YOU UGLY
FOOL.



THAT'S A
BIT HARSH.

WHAT
WAS THAT?
YOU SPOOKED
ME.





I SUPPOSE
THAT IS ENOUGH
TO MAKE YOU LOOK
LESS OF A
FOOL.





SMILE AS
MUCH AS YOU
CAN BEFORE
YOU DIE.



BEFORE
I DIE...? I GUESS
SHE JUST MEANS
TO SMILE A LOT,
RIGHT?

A SMILE A DAY
KEEPS THE DOCTOR
AWAY?



OUR
DIFFERENCE IN
CULTURE MAKES HER
SEEM A LITTLE RUDE,
BUT I GUESS SHE'S
ACTUALLY A NICE
PERSON.

AHEM...
ANYWAY, SHALL WE
GET GOING?

I'LL TAKE
YOU TO THE
NEAREST STATION.
WHERE ARE YOU
HEADED?



WHERE ELSE?
YOUR HOUSE,
OF COURSE.





I INTEND
TO STAY WITH
YOU.





PARDON...?



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WISDOM HOUSE